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The generic name *Bucida*

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The name *Bucida* was proposed by Linnaeus in 1759 (Syst. ed. 10, 1025) for the *Buceras* of P. Browne (Civil and Nat. Hist. Jam. 221), published three years previously. Both names are derived from the fancied resemblance of certain outgrowths from



FIGURE 1. Hypertrophied fruit of *Bucida Buceras*, one half the natural dimensions.

the inflorescence of the tree to the horns of a bull, as expressed by P. Browne as follows: "On the flower-spikes of this tree you may sometimes find one or more fructifications, that shoot into a

monstrous size, being seldom under three inches in length, though never above a line and a half in diameter; and something in the form of a bull's horn."

The tree, known in Jamaica as the black olive, is valuable for its timber and grows commonly in swamps and along streams near the coast throughout the West Indies, extending north to south Florida and the Bahamas.

While boating on the Ferry River, a few miles west of Kingston, Jamaica, one of the places where Browne studied this tree, in company with Mr. William Harris, on April 10, 1908, I was much interested in observing a tree whose limbs hung over the water, bearing quantities of the structures referred to by Browne as "fructifications," and I easily obtained good specimens from it. On this tree the peculiar outgrowths are borne near the ends of the spikes, as illustrated by Browne on his plate 23, fig. 1; they are linear, elongated, and vary from 8 to 16 cm. in length, with a diameter of from 2 to 3 mm. when young, characteristically curved and very nearly circular in cross-section; when old, they split irregularly along one side, after becoming about 4 mm. in diameter, and expose a black internal mass, which suggested to me a possible fungal origin of the outgrowth; I requested Dr. Murrill to examine the specimens, but he could find no fungus, though he did find mites, whereupon we sent specimens to Professor Mel. T. Cook, who has recently furnished us with the following account of his examination of them. The accompanying figure represents a typical form of these interesting galls, remaining attached to the upper end of the inflorescence after the fruits have fallen away.

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN.